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Approved For Release 2009/09/16 : CIA-RDP87M00539R001802760023-0

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VI. 25 Feb 85

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CENTRAL AMERICA

GUTIERREZ DENIES KIDNAPPED NICARAGUANS IN COUNTRY

PA230403 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has informed the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry that the five Nicaraguan citizens the Managua regime claims were kidnapped by groups opposed to the Sandinist government are not in Costa Rican territory. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry had sent a telegram asking the Costa Rican Government to locate Gustavo Sequeira Pena, Hernaldo Benito Arias Reyes, Javier Herrera Calderon, Ileana Coronado Falcon, and Oscar Pavon Herrera.

According to a report issued by the Public Security Ministry, these people are not in Costa Rican territory, the foreign minister stated. He noted that this is the latest case of kidnapped people who later reappear in Nicaraguan territory which they never left.

Several important Nicaraguan officials have admitted that part of Nicaragua's territory is under the control of opposition forces, especially Zelaya Department, where Indian groups are in control. Taking this into consideration, it is doubtful that people captured by these groups could have been brought to Costa Rica in light of the great distance involved and the poor roads in Nicaragua's Atlantic region. The Costa Rican Government urges the Nicaraguan regime to exert control over its own territory and suggests that Managua should avoid sending civilian officials to war zones like Zelaya where it is in no position to exercise its sovereignty.

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4054
INFO RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 8587
RUEHSU/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 8404
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 8911
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 8994
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BT
UNCLAS MANAGUA 0817

EO 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS SHUM NU
SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF RAMA KEY KIDNAP VICTIMS

REF: A) MANAGUA 0628 B) FBIS CHIVA CHIVA R032152Z FEB 85

COMANDANTE LUMBERTO CAMPBELL, FSLN DELEGATE FOR SOUTHERN ZELAYA, SAID FEBRUARY 4 THAT THE GON HAD NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE CURRENT WELFARE OF FOUR GON MEDICAL WORKERS, INCLUDING NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY (UNAN) VICE DEAN GUSTAVO SEQUEIRA, TAKEN BY CONTRAS FROM RAMA KEY ON JANUARY 25 (REF A). PRO-GON DAILY EL NUEVO DIARIO FEBRUARY 5 SAID THAT OTHER MEDICAL BRIGADES WOULD BE FORMED AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL IN LEON AND THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO PUBLICLY DENOUNCE THE KIDNAPPING OF SEQUEIRA AND THE OTHERS TO PRESSURE THE CONTRAS INTO RELEASING THEM. EL NUEVO DIARIO FEBRUARY 6, SAID THAT THE "ANTI-IMPERIALIST TRIBUNAL OF OUR AMERICA" (TANA) HAD BEGUN A "CONTINENTAL CAMPAIGN" TO TRY TO EFFECT THE RELEASE OF THE FOUR. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF TANA, FREDDY BALZAN, SAID THAT "IT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR WHO THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS OF THIS KIDNAPPING, AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF OTHERS, ARE... THE CURRENT INTERVENTIONIST AND WARLIKE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN PARTICULAR PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN." BALZAN SAID THAT TANA WOULD DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS AND COSTA RICA MAKE IMMEDIATE EFFORTS TO GUARANTEE THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE KIDNAPPED MEDICAL WORKERS. REF B QUOTED ARDE "WAR BULLETIN NUMBER 530" WHICH CLAIMED THAT THREE SQUADS OF THE "ALMENDRA" PLATOON OF THE "JUAN ALBERTO ZELAYA ZELAYA" COLUMN HAD TAKEN THE MEDICAL TEAM. IT SAID THAT THEY WERE CURRENTLY BEING HELD BY THE ARDE UNIT AND WOULD REMAIN SO UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
BERGOLD
END OF MESSAGE

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